Nik Software

User Guide

Nik Software

Color Efex Pro™ 3.0

For Capture NX 2

Chapter 1

Introduction

Introduction to Nik Software Color Efex Pro™ 3.0 for Capture NX 2 and the User Guide

Introduction

Welcome to Nik Software Color Efex Pro™ 3.0 for Capture NX 2, the most advanced set of filters for digital photography.

Digital photographers have come to appreciate and take advantage of unprecedented levels of control over their images. They enjoy more options than ever to enhance, stylize, and otherwise improve upon photographs. All of this additional control, however, has led photographers to increasingly complicated choices of adjustments, filters and blends, and away from the art of control.

Color Efex Pro 3.0 filters are designed to make photographic enhancements not only easier, but better. Based on continuous feedback from professionals in Nik Software's photographer community, Color Efex Pro 3.0 is a suite of proven controls to help photographers save time, get professional results and de-complicate the art of enhancing their images.

Versions

Nik Software offers two versions of Color Efex Pro 3.0 for Capture NX 2. The Complete Edition contains 52 filters and the Select Edition contains 35 filters.

What's in the User Guide

In addition to providing installation instructions, the User Guide shows you how to choose and control filters.

The typographical conventions used in this manual are:

- Color Efex Pro 3.0 processes and user interface components appear in Initial Caps, with first instances in **Bold Caps**. (In context-appropriate cases, later instances also appear in **Bold Caps**.)
- Specific control inputs appear in ***Bold Italic***. Control inputs can be menu items, buttons, or sliders. Where first instances coincide with specific control inputs, the term appears in ***Bold Italic***.

Chapter 2

New Filters in 3.0

New Filters Available in Color Efex Pro™ 3.0 for Capture NX 2

New Filters

Color Efex Pro 3.0 offers nine new filters to Color Efex Pro 2.0 users, along with updates to existing filters.

Bleach Bypass – Simulates the effect of processing color film and bypassing the bleach chemistry step. Use this filter for a high-contrast, low-saturation effect used by photographers and film makers alike.

Cross Balance – Simulates the look of shooting either tungsten-balanced film in daylight or daylight-balanced film under tungsten lights. Use this filter to create the cool blue or warm orange effect often used in stylizing images.

Film Effects – Offers the look and feel of over 30 different film types, realistically simulating color sensitivity, contrast, and grain for each film.

Film Grain – Adds realistic film grain to any image, with control over the size and placement throughout the image.

Glamour Glow – Gives portrait photographers a powerful way to stylize images with dreamy, soft effects.

Low Key – Simulates the look of low-key photography, characterized by uniformly dark tones and low contrast.

High Key – Simulates the look of high-key photography, characterized by uniformly light tones and low contrast.

Polaroid Transfer – Simulates the effect of using Polaroid color peel-apart films and transferring the nascent image to paper before it has fully developed. The result is a low-contrast, low-saturation version of the image, with subtle shifts to the colors throughout the image, reminiscent of this popular photographic technique.

Tonal Contrast – Allows powerful control over the contrast only of highlights, midtones or shadows, without affecting the rest of the image. Use this filter for highly targeted control of a particular portion of the tonal range of the image.

(Please see Chapter 8: Filter Descriptions.)

Chapter 3

Installation

Installing and Accessing Color Efex Pro™ 3.0 for Capture NX 2

Installation

The installer provided with Color Efex Pro 3.0 automatically installs the filters into the appropriate location for Capture NX 2.

Installing Color Efex Pro 3.0

Before you install Color Efex Pro 3.0, please close Capture NX 2. Please do not open any other applications during the installation process.

To begin installation:

Double-click on the ***installation file*** provided either on your Color Efex Pro 3.0 CD or downloaded from the Internet. A window appears displaying the Color Efex Pro 3.0 for Capture NX 2 Setup Wizard.

The installer walks you through the procedure.

After you have read the Read Me file and accepted the End User License Agreement, click ***Install***. When the installation is complete, the final page of the installer appears.

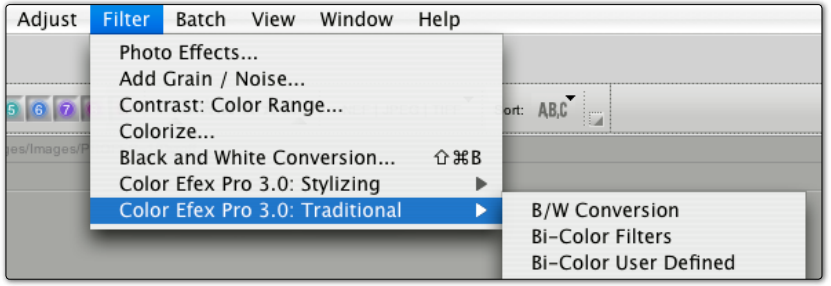
Click ***Finish*** to complete the installation process.

Accessing Color Efex Pro 3.0

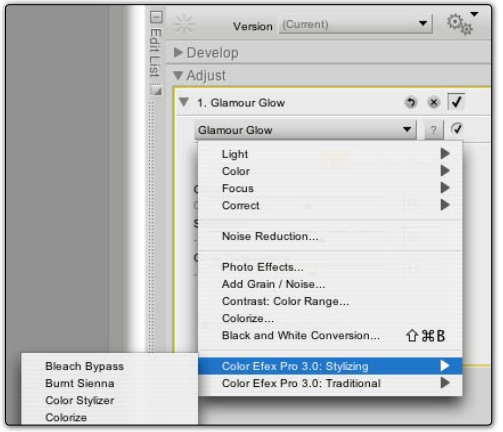
After completing the installation, launch Capture NX 2. Color Efex Pro 3.0 is accessed from the Filter menu.

To begin using Color Efex Pro 3.0:

1. Open the image that you would like to enhance.
2. Click the ***Filter*** menu.
3. Roll over either the ***Color Efex Pro 3.0 Traditional*** or ***Color Efex Pro 3.0 Stylizing*** sub-menus. A list of filters appears.
4. Select the filter you wish to apply from this list.



The controls for the filter will then appear within the Edit List. To change the filter that is currently being applied to the image, click on the Adjust & Filter pull-down menu within the Edit List and select a different filter.



Chapter 4

Workflow

Workflow and Tips for Enhancing Images

Workflow

The order of steps involved in enhancing an image varies, depending on the image. In general, there are only a few guidelines to consider:

- Apply noise reduction as early as possible in the process.
- Apply output sharpening, as late as possible in the process.
- Start with distractions (global, then local), and end with enhancements.

Start with characteristics that affect the entire image, such as color casts, contrast and tones. Next, modify elements that affect only localized areas, such as blemishes and small distracting objects. Finally, apply effects that add a style or mood to the image. In other words, move from the general to the specific.

For best results in Color Efex Pro 3.0, perform the tasks below in the given order:

1. Adjust the filter controls.
2. Protect shadows and highlights, if necessary.
3. Selectively apply the filter using the Selection Control Points, Selection Brush, or Selection Gradient, if desired.

Chapter 5

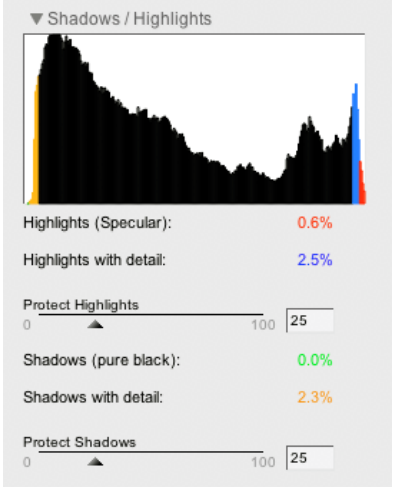
Color Efex Pro 3.0 Controls

Overview of Controls for Color Efex Pro™ 3.0 for Capture NX 2

Filter Controls

After selecting a filter, controls are provided unique to that filter. *(For a complete explanation, please see Chapter 8: Filter Descriptions.)*

Shadows & Highlights



Certain filters provide the Shadows & Highlights controls. When expanded, this section displays a histogram representing the full tonal range of the active image after the current enhancement has been applied as well as sliders to protect the details in the shadows and highlights. The histogram changes in real time as you adjust the filter controls and Protect Shadows/Protect Highlights sliders.

The colored areas at both ends of the histogram help identify potential problems. The top and bottom 2.5% of tonal values (representing Shadows without Detail on the left and Highlights without Detail on the right) appear in red. The next 2.5% of the shadows and highlights (indicating Shadows with Detail on the left and Highlights with Detail on the right) appear in green.

Connected to each of the four colored areas (Shadows without Detail, Shadows with Detail, Highlights without Detail, Highlights with Detail) are numerical call-outs displaying the percentage of pixels from the active image in each of those four areas after the enhancement has been applied.

The Protect Shadows and Protect Highlights sliders help you keep your image details from falling into these areas. For best results, keep the greater part of the image between the green areas (Shadows with Detail and Highlights with Detail) of the histogram. Portions of the image in Shadows without Detail will likely print pure black; those in Highlights without Detail will likely print as paper white.

- Click and drag the Protect Shadows slider to the right to adjust the filter's effect and prevent details from being moved into the Shadows without Detail area.

- Click and drag the Protect Highlights slider to the right to adjust the filter's effect and prevent details from being "blown out" or being moved into the Highlights without Detail area.

Note: *In general, it is best to maintain the histogram in the region between Shadows with Details and Highlights with Details sections. Nevertheless, many good images have values in those areas of the histogram (e.g., highlight on a chrome bumper).*

Chapter 6

Selectively Applying Filters

Using the Selection Tools to Selectively Apply Filters

All of the Color Efex Pro 3.0 filters can be applied selectively using the various selection tools found within Capture NX 2. Instructions on using the Selection Control Points, Selection Brush, and Selection Gradients can be found below. For additional information on selectively applying enhancements within Capture NX 2, please refer to the Capture NX 2 User's Manual.

Selection Control Point

Selection control points utilize U Point® technology to selectively apply the effect of an enhancement. You can use a selection control point to selectively apply any Color Efex Pro 3.0 filter.

To use a selection control point, follow these steps:

1. Select a Color Efex Pro 3.0 filter to apply to the image.
2. Click on the selection control point icon in the toolbar.
   a. If you click the icon for the selection control point, the Base Mask slider in the Selection section of the Edit List palette will automatically move to 0% after adding the first selection control point, hiding the effect of the current enhancement. Click on the image to add a selection control point with the opacity slider automatically set to 100%. This will result in the current enhancement's effect only applied to the area selected by the control point.
   b. If you click the icon for the selection control point, click on the image to add a selection control point with the opacity slider automatically set to 0% to the image. The enhancement will be applied to the entire image, except for the area selected by the control point.
3. Adjust the size and opacity sliders to achieve the desired result. The higher the size value, the more objects similar to the object selected by the control point will be selected as well. The higher the opacity slider, the more the current enhancement will be applied to the objects selected by the control point.
4. Add additional selection control points, or use the selection brush tool to further modify where the current enhancement is being applied to the image.

Selection Brush Tool

The selection brush enables you to selectively paint in or paint out the Color Efex Pro 3.0 filter found in the current step. You can use the selection brush to selectively apply any Color Efex Pro 3.0 filter.

To use the selection brush, follow these steps:

1. Select a Color Efex Pro 3.0 filter to apply to the image.
2. Click on the selection brush icon in the toolbar. Click on the icon if you would like to apply the current enhancement only to the area you will paint, or click on the icon if you would like to apply the current enhancement to the entire image, except for where you paint. Please note: If you first click on the icon, the base selection slider in the selection section of the current step in the Edit List palette will automatically move to 0% after the first paint stroke, enabling you to add the enhancement only to where you paint. You may at any point adjust the base selection slider and place it at a different value.

3. In the tool options bar, adjust the Size, Brush Hardness, and Opacity of the brush.
4. Click and draw within the active image window to add or remove the effect, depending on if you selected the or icon.
5. At any point, switch to the opposite mode by clicking on either or to add to or remove from the selection drawn. You can temporarily switch to the opposite mode by holding down the Alt key (Windows) or Option key (Macintosh.)
6. To delete a selection created by the selection brush tool, click on the delete button found in the current step's selection information section next to the "Paint & Fill Mask" section. Alternatively, ensure that the image window is active by clicking on the image window's title bar and press the delete key.

Selection Gradient Tools

The selection gradient tools enable you to gradually blend between applying and removing the current step's effects on your image. You can use the selection gradient tools to selectively apply any Color Efex Pro 3.0 filter.

There are two selection gradient tools to choose from. You can select among these tools by holding the mouse down on the selection gradient icon in the toolbar and selecting from the tools that appear.

Linear Gradient Tool

The linear gradient tool adds the current effect to the image with a gradual transition from applying to hiding the effect in a straight line, with the direction and start and end points determined by the line drawn when applying this tool.

Radial Gradient Tool

The radial gradient tool adds the current effect to the image in a circular pattern, with a gradual transition from applying to hiding the effect radiating from a central point, with the center, start, and end points determined by the line drawn when applying this tool.

To use a selection gradient tool to selectively apply the current step's enhancements to your image, follow these steps:

1. Select a Color Efex Pro 3.0 filter to apply to the image.
2. Click on the selection gradient icon in the toolbar. Click on the icon if you would like to determine first where the enhancement starts, or click on the icon if you would like to determine first where the enhancement ends.

3. Click and draw a line within the active image window. Depending on if you chose the or the icons, the point where you start the line will either be the part where the effect is added at 100% to the image or where the effect is removed entirely from the image. If you use the linear gradient tool, the enhancement will be applied in a straight line, following the direction of the line you created. If you use the radial gradient tool, the enhancement will be applied in a circular pattern, radiating from the point that you selected by first clicking on the image.
4. After drawing the gradient, the line that you created will still be visible, along with start, mid, and end anchor points. Click on an anchor point to reposition the gradient and control the gradient's effect on the image.
5. At any point, switch to the opposite mode by clicking on either or to add another gradient. Each additional gradient will blend with the previously drawn gradients. You can mix different gradient types (linear and radial) as well as and . Please note: Once you have added an additional gradient, the anchor points for the previously drawn gradient will no longer be accessible.
6. To delete a selection created by a gradient tool, click on the delete button found in the current step's selection information section next to the "Paint & Fill Mask" section.

Chapter 7

Upgrading from Nik Color Efex Pro 2.0 for Capture NX

Special Considerations When Upgrading from Nik Color Efex Pro 2.0 for Capture NX

Capture NX 2 is a fully non-destructive image editing application, ensuring the maximum level of flexibility when working with enhancements. Color Efex Pro filters take advantage of this non-destructive functionality, ensuring that the image is always processed with the highest quality as well as ensuring that the enhancements can always be removed or adjusted, even after the image is saved and closed.

When working on a computer that does not have Nik Color Efex Pro 2.0 for Capture NX installed, Color Efex Pro 3.0 for Capture NX 2 provides you with two different options for working with NEF files that contained Nik Color Efex Pro 2.0 for Capture NX filters:

- In the first instance, opening an NEF file that contained a Nik Color Efex Pro 2.0 for Capture NX filter when Color Efex Pro 3.0 for Capture NX 2 is installed, the image is processed and displayed with the exact same enhancement and quality, using the same filter algorithms. The filter however cannot be adjusted and can only be turned on and off, or deleted

- In the second instance, the Color Efex Pro 3.0 NEF Update Tool is used to convert the Color Efex Pro 2.0 filters applied within the NEF file into the corresponding Color Efex Pro 3.0 filters with equivalent filter settings. Using the Update Tool attempts to achieve the same filter effect and allows modification to the filter's settings. As the filter algorithms were changed slightly within Color Efex Pro 3.0 to provide greater control and quality, the exact same filter effect may not be possible. For more information on the Update Tool, please see the section below.

Color Efex Pro 3.0 NEF Update Tool

To convert NEF files that contain Nik Color Efex Pro 2.0 for Capture NX filters to Color Efex Pro 3.0 for Capture NX 2 compatible filters, follow these steps:

1. Launch the Update Tool. The Update Tool will either be accessible through the following methods.

   Windows
   Start Menu › Programs › Color Efex Pro 3.0 for Capture NX 2

   Macintosh
   Macintosh HD : Library : Application Support : Nikon : Capture NX 2: Color Efex Pro 3.0

2. Drag one or more NEF files or folders containing NEF files into the application window. Alternatively, click within the application window to open a file dialog window to locate the files to be converted.
3. Click the **Start Update** button to start converting the NEF files.
4. Each NEF file will be updated adding a new version with the Nik Color Efex Pro 2.0 for Capture NX filter applied.

Note: *Only Capture NX 2 or the Color Efex Pro 3.0 NEF Update Tool can be open at one time. A warning will be displayed if you attempt to launch either application with the other already running. Please quit out of Capture NX 2 prior to launching the Color Efex Pro 3.0 NEF Update Tool.*

After the conversion process has completed, you are presented with the results of the conversion process. Files that had a warning or that failed are displayed, enabling you to review the images and resolve any issues before running the Update Tool again.

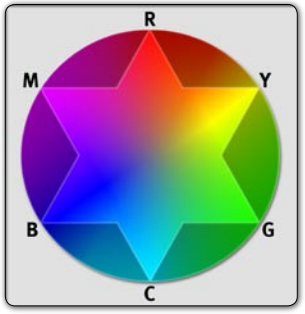
Images that may not appear the same due to the difference in the filter algorithms are indicated with a warning. The file can always be reverted back to the Nik Color Efex Pro 2.0 for Capture NX version using the new version added to the NEF file.

Chapter 8

Filter Descriptions

Effects and Controls for Each Filter

Nik Software offers two versions of Color Efex Pro 3.0 for Capture NX 2. The Complete Edition contains 52 filters and the Select Edition contains 35 filters.



Understanding Complementary Colors

Some filters in Color Efex Pro 3.0 involve complementary colors, which are color opposites that reside directly across from each other on a color wheel. A color's complement can be created by mixing the other two primary colors together. For example, red's complementary color is cyan, which can be created by mixing green and blue together.

B/W Conversion (3 Effects)

Updated in Color Efex Pro 3.0 | Complete Edition | Select Edition | Traditional

B/W Conversion combines methods and filters from Color Efex Pro 2.0 – B/W Conversion, B/W Conversion Dynamic Contrast, and B/W Conversion Tonal Enhancer – in a single filter. Use this filter to transform a color image into a black and white version, with control over the shadows, highlights, and relationships among the original colors. Each method simulates the placement of a traditional black and white color filter in front of the lens.

Use the provided pull-down menu to select the B/W Conversion method. The following B/W Conversion methods and controls are available:

B/W Conversion

Creates a traditional conversion from color to black and white.

Filter Color – Adjusts the color of the simulated filter and controls the relationship of colors in the image. This lightens objects of that color in the image and darkens objects of the complementary color.

Filter Strength – Slides to the left for less contrast between colors, to the right for more contrast between colors.

Brightness – Controls the overall lightness of the image.

Contrast – Controls the overall contrast of the image.

B/W Conversion: Tonal Enhancer

Provides special contrast methods to increase details in the image.

Filter Color – Adjusts the color of the simulated filter and controls the relationship of colors in the image. This lightens objects of that color in the image and darkens objects of the complementary color.

Filter Strength – Slides to the left for less contrast between colors, to the right for more contrast between colors.

Brightness – Controls the overall lightness of the image.

Method – From the pull-down menu, select a contrast type.

B/W Conversion: Dynamic Contrast

Creates exaggerated contrast and stylistic black and white images.

Filter Color – Adjusts the color of the simulated filter and controls the relationship of colors in the image. This lightens objects of that color in the image and darkens objects of the complementary color.

Filter Strength – Slides to the left for less contrast between colors, to the right for more contrast between colors.

Brightness – Controls the overall lightness of the image.

Contrast Enhancer – Controls the additional contrast introduced to the image for a stylistic effect.

Bi-Color Filters (20 Effects)

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Traditional

Blends two colors and then adds the result to the active image.

From the pull-down menu, select a pre-defined color combination, each with four variations. Each variation provides the following controls:

Opacity – Controls the overall strength of the filter.

Blend – Controls the size of the blend between the two colors in the filter.

Vertical Shift – Controls the placement of the filter's horizon.

Rotation – Controls the angle of the filter's horizon.

Bi-Color User Defined

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Traditional

Blends two user-defined colors and then adds the result to the active image.

Upper Color – Specifies the top color to be applied to the image. Use either the supplied eyedropper to select a color from the current image or click on the color patch to access a color picker.

Lower Color – Specifies the bottom color to be applied to the image. Use either the supplied eyedropper to select a color from the current image or click on the color patch to access a color picker.

Opacity – Controls the overall strength of the filter.

Blend – Controls the size of the blend between the two colors in the filter.

Vertical Shift – Controls the placement of the filter's horizon.

Rotation – Controls the angle of the filter's horizon.

Bleach Bypass

New in Color Efex Pro 3.0 | Complete Edition | Select Edition | Stylizing

Simulates the effect of processing color film and bypassing the bleach chemistry step. Use this filter for a high-contrast, low-saturation effect used by photographers and film makers alike.

Brightness – Controls the overall lightness of the image.

Saturation – Controls the overall vibrancy of colors by increasing or decreasing saturation throughout the image.

Global Contrast – Controls the overall contrast throughout the image.

Local Contrast – Creates contrast within objects, accentuating details.

Brilliance/Warmth

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Traditional

Adds either a cool or warm cast to the image while applying a saturation effect.

Brilliance – Increases or decreases saturation of the colors in the image.

Warmth – Controls the temperature of the colors in the image. Move the slider to the left to cool the colors (adding blues), or to the right to warm the colors (adding reds).

Burnt Sienna

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Stylizing

Adds extreme warmth and contrast to affect the mood and style of the image.

Brightness – Controls the overall lightness of the image.

Contrast – Controls the overall contrast of the image.

Classical Soft Focus (6 Effects)

Updated in Color Efex Pro 3.0 | Complete Edition | Select Edition | Traditional

Introduces traditional photographic effects to stylize an image and soften unwanted detail. This filter simulates traditional, soft focus filters and diffusion techniques.

From the pull-down menu, select the type of blur to add to the image. Each blur type offers the following controls:

Diffused Detail – Controls the amount of random detail added to the soft focus effect. This can help maintain the appearance of detail and prevent banding.

Strength – Controls the degree to which you want to apply the filter.

Brightness – Controls the overall lightness of the image.

Color Stylizer

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Stylizing

Overlays a color on top of the image and lets you control the saturation of the original image's color.

Color – Adds a color to the image. To select a color for this control you may either use the eyedropper within the active image or click on the color patch using the color picker in your image editing application.

Contrast – Controls the overall contrast of the image.

Saturation – Controls the amount of color to include from the original image. Slides to the left to create a monochrome image, to the right to maintain the full level of color from the original image.

Colorize (6 Effects)

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Stylizing

Inks the image with a color and provides different color and contrast relationships to stylize the image.

From the pull-down menu, select the relationship between the original colors in the image and the color being added. Each option provides the following controls:

Color – Lets you select a color to add to the image. To select a color for this control you may either use the eyedropper within the active image or click on the color patch using the color picker in your image editing application.

Strength – Controls the degree to which you want to apply the filter.

Contrast Color Range

Updated in Color Efex Pro 3.0 | Complete Edition | Select Edition | Traditional

Provides control over the contrast between selected colors within an image. Use this filter to isolate or blend objects with other objects, according to their color.

Color – Selects the color range to which to apply contrast. This lightens objects of that color in the image and darkens objects of the complementary color.

Color Contrast – Controls the contrast between the color selected and other colors in the image. Slides to the left for less contrast between colors, to the right for more contrast between colors.

Brightness – Controls the overall lightness of the image.

Contrast – Controls the overall contrast of the image.

Contrast Only

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Traditional

Increases the contrast of an image without affecting the color characteristics of the image.

Brightness – Controls the overall lightness of the image without affecting the color and saturation.

Contrast – Controls the overall contrast of the image without affecting the color and saturation.

Saturation – Controls the overall vibrancy of colors by increasing or decreasing saturation throughout the image.

Cross Balance (6 Effects)

New in Color Efex Pro 3.0 | Complete Edition | Traditional

Simulates the look of shooting either tungsten-balanced film in daylight or daylight-balanced film under tungsten lights. Use this filter to create the cool blue or warm orange effect often used in stylizing images.

From the provided pull-down menu, select the Cross Balance method. The Daylight to Tungsten options emulate using daylight balanced film with tungsten lights, while the Tungsten to Daylight emulate using tungsten balanced film in daylight.

Strength – Controls the degree of cross balance effect.

Cross Processing (19 Effects)

Updated in Color Efex Pro 3.0 | Complete Edition | Traditional

Simulates the effect of processing color film with the wrong chemistry; that is, processing negative film with slide chemistry (C41 to E6 cross-processing) or slide film with negative chemistry (E6 to C41 cross-processing).

From the provided pull-down menu, select the Cross Processing method. Select **C41 to E6, E6 to C41**, or variations on either style.

Strength – Controls the degree to which you want to apply the filter.

Darken/Lighten Center

Updated in Color Efex Pro 3.0 | Complete Edition | Select Edition | Traditional

Draws the eye toward or away from the center of the image. A lighter center and darker edges draw the eye to the center of the image, and a darker center and lighter edges draw the eye to the edges.

From the pull-down menu, specify round or oval shape for the Darken/Lighten effect. Both shapes provide the following controls:

Center Luminosity – Controls the brightness at the center of the image.

Border Luminosity – Controls the brightness at the edges of the image.

Center Size – Controls the relationship between the center and the edges.

Place Center – Positions the center of the image. This is useful if the subject is not in the center of the frame. Click this button and then place the center where desired.

Detail Stylizer (18 Effects)

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Stylizing

Detail Stylization combines methods and filters from Color Efex Pro 2.0 – Pop Art, Stairs, Weird Dreams, and Weird Lines – in a single filter. Use this filter to introduce effects based on the shapes and details found in the original image.

From the pull-down menu provided, select one of the available filters. The following filters and controls are available:

Pop Art

Creates abstract color shapes and patterns from image details.

Effect Transparency – Controls the degree to which the original image remains visible with the Pop Art effect.

Color Set – From the pull-down menu, select a pre-defined color combination.

Saturation – Controls the amount of color in the shapes created by the filter.

Brightness – Controls the lightness of the shapes created by the filter.

Size – Controls the relationship between the shapes and the original details of the image.

Stairs

Breaks an image into its component shapes and brightens its original colors to create an abstract, stylized image of stair objects.

Contrast – Controls the contrast among the objects.

Effect Size – Controls the distance between objects.

Saturation – Controls the amount of color introduced to the objects.

Weird Dreams

Transforms the original image into its component shapes and forms and applies one of six color sets to create an abstract, colorful version of the original image.

Color Set – From the pull-down menu, select colors for the shapes in the image.

Size – Controls the relationship between the shapes created by the filter and the original image details.

Weird Lines

Adds texture to an image by introducing abstract, transparent shapes and contours that mimic the shapes in the original image.

Style – From the pull-down menu, select colors for the shapes in the image.

Size – Controls the relationship between the shapes created by the filter and the original image details.

Contrast – Controls the contrast among the shapes.

Duplex

Complete Edition | Stylizing

Creates a stylistic, duotone effect with options for color, blur and saturation.

Color – Adds a color to the image. To select a color for this control you may either use the eyedropper within the active image or click on the color patch using the color picker in your image editing application.

Strength – Controls the degree to which you want to apply the filter.

Diffusion – Controls the amount of blur added for a stylistic effect.

Saturation – Controls the amount of color to include from the original image. (At 0%, this creates the effect of the Duplex: Monochrome filter from Color Efex Pro 2.0.)

Contrast – Controls the overall contrast of the image.

Dynamic Skin Softener

Updated in Color Efex Pro 3.0 | Complete Edition | Traditional

Creates soft, lustrous skin, without affecting other objects in the image. Use this filter with objects other than skin to take advantage of its unique softening algorithm.

Skin Color – Select the color of the skin tone using either the eyedropper within the active image or click on the color patch using the color picker in your image editing application.

Color Reach – Controls the range of affected colors. Slides to the left to narrow the range of affected colors to only the hue and shade selected, to the right to expand the range beyond those selected. At 100%, the Dynamic Skin Softener effect will be applied to the entire image—use Control Points to limit only to the areas that require softening.

Small Details – Controls the amount of softening applied to small details.

Medium Details – Controls the amount of softening applied to medium details.

Large Details – Controls the amount of softening applied to large details.

Film Effects (33 Effects)

New in Color Efex Pro 3.0 | Complete Edition | Traditional

Offers the look and feel of over 30 different film types, realistically simulating color sensitivity, contrast, and grain for each film.

Film Type – From the pull-down menu, select any of the pre-defined film types.

Film Details – Displays the settings for the currently selected film type and lets you create a custom film type.

Brightness – Controls the overall lightness of the image.

Contrast – Controls the overall contrast of the image.

Clicking on the show/hide triangle for **Film Details** displays the following controls :

Sensitivity

Controls the film's lightness response to different wavelengths of light.

Red through Violet – sliders control how bright or dark an object of that color appears. Slide to the left to make objects of that color darker, to the right to make them brighter.

Saturation

Controls the film's saturation response to different wavelengths of light.

Red through Violet – sliders control how saturated an object of that color appears. Slide to the left to make objects of that color less saturated, to the right to make them more saturated.

Tone Curve

Controls contrast and tonal response in the film.

Channels – From the pull-down menu, select a channel to modify, then click to add anchor points to the curve to specify the brightness, contrast, and relationship of tonal values in the image.

Grain

Adds grain to the image and lets you specify the size of the grain and its placement throughout the image.

Grain Size – From the pull-down menu, select one of five grain sizes, from ultra-fine to extra-coarse.

Highlight Grain – Controls the degree of grain added to the highlights of the image.

Midtone Grain – Controls the degree of grain added to the midtones of the image.

Shadow Grain – Controls the degree of grain added to the shadows of the image.

Grain Saturation – Controls the saturation of the grain added to the image. Moving this slider to the left emulates monochromatic grain, while moving this slider to the right emulates color grain.

Film Grain

New in Color Efex Pro 3.0 | Complete Edition | Select Edition | Traditional

Adds realistic film grain to any image, with control over the size and placement throughout the image.

From the pull-down menu, select one of five grain sizes, from Ultra-Fine to Extra-Coarse. Each grain size provides the following controls:

Highlight Grain – Controls the amount of grain added to the highlights of the image.

Midtone Grain – Controls the amount of grain added to the midtones of the image.

Shadow Grain – Controls the amount of grain added to the shadows of the image.

Grain Saturation – Controls the saturation of the grain added to the image. Moving this slider to the left emulates monochromatic grain, while moving this slider to the right emulates color grain.

Flux (5 Effects)

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Stylizing

Introduces subtle effects in or creates an abstraction of image details.

From the pull-down menu, select one of the effects of the Flux filter. The effects range from subtle detail shifts to strong color and contrast effects. Each option provides the following controls:

Strength – Controls the degree to which you want to apply the filter.

Size – Controls the degree of the effect, and the relationship among colors and details throughout the image.

Fog

Complete Edition | Traditional

Simulates traditional fog effect: A pronounced, soft focus giving the appearance of fog.

From the pull-down menu, select one of the methods of the Fog filter. Each method provides you with the following control:

Intensity – Controls the degree to which you want to apply the filter.

Foliage

Complete Edition | Stylizing

Identifies foliage and greenery in an image and enhances or stylizes those objects.

From the pull-down menu, select one of the effects of the Foliage filter. Each option provides the following control:

Enhance Foliage – Controls the degree to which you want to apply the filter.

Glamour Glow

New in Color Efex Pro 3.0 | Complete Edition | Stylizing

Gives portrait photographers a powerful way to stylize images with dreamy, soft effects.

Glow – Controls the degree of the filter's softening technique.

Brightness – Controls tonality throughout the image.

Glow Temperature – Controls the temperature of the effect added to the image. Moving this slider to the left creates a cool blue effect, while moving this slider to the right creates a warm red-orange effect.

Graduated Filters (16 Effects)

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Traditional

Blends a color into a portion of an image, with a gradual transition to the original image.

From the pull-down menu, select a pre-defined color combination, each with four variations. Each color combination provides the following controls:

Opacity – Controls the overall strength of the filter.

Blend – Controls the size of the blend between the two colors in the filter.

Vertical Shift – Controls the placement of the filter's horizon.

Rotation – Controls the angle of the filter's horizon.

Graduated Fog

Complete Edition | Traditional

Simulates traditional fog effect (very strong soft focus giving the appearance of fog) in one half of the image.

From the pull-down menu, select one of the styles of the Fog effect. Each style provides the following controls:

Opacity – Controls the overall strength of the filter.

Blend – Controls the size of the blend between the fog effect and the original image details.

Vertical Shift – Controls the placement of the filter's horizon.

Rotation – Controls the angle of the filter's horizon.

Graduated Neutral Density

Updated in Color Efex Pro 3.0 | Complete Edition | Select Edition | Traditional

Darkens or lightens a portion of an image while preserving the color of the image. Use this filter to help correct the tonality of an image with too much contrast.

Upper Tonality – Controls the brightness of the top portion of the filter.

Lower Tonality – Controls the brightness of the bottom portion of the filter.

Vertical Shift – Controls the placement of the filter's horizon.

Rotation – Controls the angle of the filter's horizon.

Blend – Controls the size of the blend between the fog effect and the original image details.

Graduated User Defined

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Traditional

Blends a user-defined color into a portion of an image, with a gradual transition to the original image.

Color – Specifies the color of the graduated effect to be applied to the image. To select a color for this control you may either use the eyedropper within the active image or click on the color patch using the color picker in your image editing application.

Opacity – Controls the overall strength of the filter.

Blend – Controls the size of the blend between the two colors in the filter.

Vertical Shift – Controls the placement of the filter's horizon.

Rotation – Controls the angle of the filter's horizon.

High Key

New in Color Efex Pro 3.0 | Complete Edition | Traditional

Simulates the look of high-key photography, characterized by uniformly light tones and low contrast.

Add Glow – Controls the degree of glow around objects from the high key effect.

Saturation – Controls the overall vibrancy of colors by increasing or decreasing saturation throughout the image.

Effect Strength – Controls the degree to which you want to apply the filter.

Indian Summer

Complete Edition | Stylizing

Identifies foliage and greenery in an image and enhances or stylizes those objects, creating warm colors similar to seasonal fall scenery.

From the pull-down menu, select one of the effects of the Indian Summer filter. Each option provides the following control:

Enhance Foliage – Controls the degree to which you want to apply the filter.

Infrared Film (9 Effects)

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Traditional

Simulates both Color and Black and White Infrared films. Use this filter to simulate different methods of capturing the infrared portion of the electromagnetic radiation spectrum, and the effects produced by films that can capture those wavelengths.

From the pull-down menu, select Color or Black and White infrared film types or different styles of both. Each option provides the following controls:

Lighten Highlights – Controls the luminosity of the highlights within the image.

Brightness – Controls the overall lightness of the image.

Contrast – Controls the overall contrast of the image.

Infrared Thermal Camera

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Stylizing

Simulates the effect of night vision goggles or scientific heat-to-color cameras. Use this filter to create a stylistic abstraction of the original image.

Type – From the pull-down menu, select the simulated effect of either night vision goggles or a heat-to-color camera.

Center Size – Controls the size of a simulated, projected light source onto the image.

Smear – Controls the degree of the filter's softening technique.

Color – Controls the relationship between the tonal values of the original image and the colors introduced by the filter.

Place Center – Positions the center of the image. This is useful if the subject is not in the center of the frame. Click this button and then place the center where desired.

Ink (11 Effects)

Updated in Color Efex Pro 3.0 | Complete Edition | Select Edition | Stylizing

Simulates the stylistic effect of special photographic papers and toners.

From the pull-down menu, select a pre-defined color combination. Each color combination provides the following control:

Strength – Controls the degree to which you want to apply the filter.

Low Key

New in Color Efex Pro 3.0 | Complete Edition | Traditional

Simulates the look of low-key photography, characterized by uniformly dark tones and low contrast.

Add Glow – Controls the degree of glow around objects from the low key effect.

Saturation – Controls the overall vibrancy of colors by increasing or decreasing saturation throughout the image.

Effect Strength – Controls the degree to which you want to apply the filter.

Midnight (5 Effects)

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Stylizing

Creates the illusion of a photograph taken at night with a dark, moody feeling. Use the Midnight filter to create a cinematic effect, softening details throughout the image with an intelligent soft-focus technique.

Use the provided pull-down menu to select from one of the pre-defined color combinations. The following controls are available for each color combination:

Blur – Controls the amount of soft focus added for a stylistic effect.

Contrast – Controls the overall contrast of the image.

Brightness – Controls the overall lightness of the image.

Color – Controls the relationship between the amount of color added by the filter and the amount of color to include from the original image.

Monday Morning (5 Effects)

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Stylizing

Introduces a diffused, cool, and somewhat sleepy mood to an image. Use this filter to control contrast and saturation, add grain, and apply a soft focus effect.

From the pull-down menu, select a pre-defined color combination. Each color combination provides the following controls:

Grain – Controls the amount of grain added to the image.

Brightness – Controls the overall lightness of the image.

Smear – Controls the degree of the filter's softening technique.

Color – Controls the relationship between the amount of color added by the filter and the amount of color to include from the original image.

Old Photo (12 Effects)

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Stylizing

Transforms an image to resemble an old photograph, with styles to simulate various black-and-white and color processes.

From the pull-down menu, select a pre-defined old-fashioned photographic process. Each option provides the following controls:

Grain – Controls the amount of grain added to the image.

Brightness – Controls the overall lightness of the image.

Paper Toner (8 Effects)

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Traditional

Simulates the different types of toners typically used on black and white prints in darkrooms. Use this filter to automatically convert an image into a black and white version before adding the toner effect; however, for best results and more control, use the B/W Conversion filter first.

From the pull-down menu, select a pre-defined type of toner. Each option provides the following control:

Strength – Controls the degree to which you want to apply the filter.

Pastel (3 Effects)

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Stylizing

Lightens and softens an image for a smooth, stylistic effect, resulting in a subdued, desaturated image.

From the pull-down menu, select a pre-defined pastel. Each option provides the following controls:

Diffusion – Controls the amount of detail in the image. Slides to the left for stronger original image details, to the right for smoother image details.

Saturation – Controls the overall vibrancy of colors by increasing or decreasing saturation throughout the image.

Contrast – Controls the overall contrast of the image.

Photo Stylizer (18 Effects)

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Stylizing

Photo Stylizer combines filters found in Color Efex Pro 2.0 – Varitone, Cool Ice, Cool Silver, Copper and Russet – in a single filter.

Use this filter to transform an otherwise plain or ordinary image to a more stylized and desirable one.

Use the provided pull-down menu to select from one of the Photo Stylizer filters. The following filters and controls are available:

Varitone

Style – From the pull-down menu, select one of the effects of the Varitone filter.

Strength – Controls the degree to which you want to apply the filter.

Cool Ice

Style – From the pull-down menu, select one of the effects of the Cool Ice filter.

Brightness – Controls the overall lightness of the image.

Cool Silver

Style – From the pull-down menu, select one of the effects of the Cool Silver filter.

Strength – Controls the degree to which you want to apply the filter.

Copper

Warmth – Controls the degree of warmth (orange-red) to add to the image.

Strength – Controls the degree to which you want to apply the filter.

Russet

Style – From the pull-down menu, select one of the effects of the Russet filter.

Strength – Controls the degree to which you want to apply the filter.

Polarization

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Traditional

Simulates the color contrasts of a conventional polarization filter. Use this filter to enhance blue skies and other similar colors, while increasing the contrast throughout the rest of the image.

Rotate – Simulates the effect of rotating a polarization filter in front of a lens and controls color contrasts.

Strength – Controls the degree to which you want to apply the filter.

Polaroid Transfer

New in Color Efex Pro 3.0 | Complete Edition | Stylizing

Simulates the effect of using Polaroid color peel-apart films and transferring the nascent image to paper before it has fully developed. The result is a low-contrast, low-saturation version of the image, with subtle shifts to the colors throughout the image, reminiscent of this popular photographic technique.

Border – Adds a textured border around the image. When the slider is set to 0, the full image is displayed.

Texture – Controls the addition of paper texture to the image, emulating the use of textured paper.

Outer Color – Adds elements of the original image back into the border area. The higher the value of this slider, the more of the color of the original image that is added to areas created by use of the Border slider.

Saturation – Controls the amount of the original image's colors that are retained.

Smear – Controls the degree of the filter's softening technique.

Tear Off – Simulates the effect of portions of the image tearing off during the transfer process. Move this slider to 0 to prevent any details from being removed from the image.

Pro Contrast

Complete Edition | Traditional

Provides advanced control over the color and contrast of an image by taking advantage of the TrueLight™ color processing system available in every Color Efex Pro 3.0 filter. Use this filter to introduce higher levels of contrast and maintain more detail than with conventional methods of contrast enhancement.

Correct Color Cast – Controls the reduction of a color cast that the filter automatically identifies in the image.

Correct Contrast – Increases the contrast in the image according to the tonal distribution that the filter identifies by analyzing the image.

Reflector Effects (3 Effects)

Complete Edition | Traditional

Simulates traditional photographic reflectors to open up shadows and control light in the image.

From the pull-down menu, select Silver, Soft Gold, or Gold. Each option provides the following controls:

Light Intensity – Controls the amount of light the reflector adds to the image.

Light Falloff – Controls how abruptly the effect trails off.

Position – Controls where the falloff begins.

Source Direction – Specifies the point at which the Reflector effect begins.

Remove Color Cast

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Traditional

Removes color casts quickly and effectively within an image.

Strength – Controls the degree to which you want to apply the filter.

Color – Specifies the color cast to remove from the image. Move the slider until the selected color matches the predominant color cast in the image.

Saturation Stylizer (7 Effects)

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Stylizing

Saturation Stylization combines filters from Color Efex Pro 2.0 – Remove Brightness and Saturation to Brightness – in a single filter. Use this filter to create abstract versions of the original image, by altering and controlling saturation in the image.

From the provided pull-down menu, select one of the available Saturation Stylizer filters. The following filters and controls are provided:

Remove Brightness

Removes the relationship of lightness among pixels, such that all pixels contain uniform tonal values. The result is an image with lower levels of contrast yet with rich, saturated colors.

Style – From the pull-down menu, select the color style to apply after the filter has removed the brightness values.

Saturation – Controls saturation in the image after the filter has removed the brightness values.

Brightness – Controls the overall lightness of the image.

Saturation to Brightness

Swaps the saturation value for the brightness value, converting bright colors to highly saturated ones and highly saturated objects to bright ones.

Brightness – Controls the overall lightness of the image.

Saturation – Controls the amount of color to include from the original image.

Nudge Colors – Shifts the colors from one direction to the other.

Skylight Filter

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Traditional

Combines the effects of both a conventional skylight filter and a conventional warming filter. Use this filter to remove offending blue casts and apply an intelligent warming function to colors.

Strength – Controls the degree to which you want to apply the filter.

Solarization (12 Effects)

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Stylizing

Simulates the Sabatier (more often referred to as a Solarization) darkroom process. Use this filter to create a stylistic effect in which some tones and colors are reversed.

From the pull-down menu, select the type of solarization to add to the image. The effects are derived from simulating different paper emulsions and development processes. Each option provides you with the following controls:

Saturation – Controls saturation in the image before the filter has added the solarization effect. (At 0%, this creates the effect of Solarization: Black and White.)

Elapsed Time – Adjusts the simulated effect of more or less time in the developer before the filter has added the solarization effect.

Sunshine

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Traditional

Makes virtually any image appear as though it was shot on a bright, sunny day. Use this filter to add light, contrast, saturation and warmth for a natural, realistic effect.

Saturation Correction – Controls the intensity of colors in the image.

Cool Color Reduction – Controls the reduction of cool or blue colors in the image.

Light – From the pull-down menu, select one of four sunlight effects, from low-contrast, hazy light to high-contrast, direct light.

Light Intensity – Controls the amount of light the filter adds to the image. If the light-casting algorithm is off, this control does not affect the image.

Radius – Controls the amount of detail-smoothing or haze in the image.

Prefilter – From the pull-down menu, select one of eight color contrast prefilters, to bring out different colors in the image.

Prefilter Strength – Controls the degree to which you want to apply the prefilter.

Tonal Contrast

New in Color Efex Pro 3.0 | Complete Edition | Stylizing

Allows powerful control over the contrast only of highlights, midtones or shadows, without affecting the rest of the image. Use this filter for highly targeted control of a particular portion of the tonal range of the image.

Highlight Contrast – Controls the degree of contrast added to only the highlights (brightest objects) of the image.

Midtone Contrast – Controls the degree of contrast added to only the midtones of the image.

Shadow Contrast – Controls the degree of contrast added to only the shadows of the image.

Saturation – Controls the overall vibrancy of colors by increasing or decreasing saturation throughout the image.

Conventional High Pass Contrast – When off, the Tonal Contrast filter will utilize a unique contrast method specially designed for this filter. In some situations, this unique contrast method can create uncover unwanted image details in the image. To prevent those unwanted details from being revealed, turn this checkbox on to switch from the unique contrast method to a conventional high pass based contrast method.

Vignette

Updated in Color Efex Pro 3.0 | Complete Edition | Select Edition | Stylizing

Simulates the application of a vignette in a darkroom.

Vignette Color – Lets you select a vignette color to add to the image. To select a color for this control you may either use the eyedropper within the active image or click on the color patch using the color picker in your image editing application.

Shape – From the pull-down menu, select a circle, oval, smooth rectangle, or rough-edged rectangle shape to add to the image.

Adapt Edges – Controls the relationship between the shape of the vignette and the image details. The higher the value on the Adapt Edges slider, the more the vignette shape integrates with the image details.

Transition – Controls how abruptly the vignette blends into the original image details.

Size – Adjusts the area of the image covered by the vignette.

Opacity – Controls the overall strength of the filter.

Place Center – Positions the center of the image. This is useful if the subject is not in the center of the frame. Click this button and then place the center where desired.

Vignette Blur (4 Effects)

Updated in Color Efex Pro 3.0 | Complete Edition | Select Edition | Traditional

Defocuses detail around the center of the image, drawing the eye to the inside of the image.

From the pull-down menu, select a circle, oval or rectangle shape as the basis for the blur effect. Each option provides the following controls:

Blur – From the pull-down menu, select the type of blur or soft focus to add to the image.

Transition – Controls how abruptly the vignette blends into the original image details.

Size – Adjusts the area of the image covered by the vignette.

Opacity – Controls the overall strength of the filter.

Place Center – Positions the center of the image. This is useful if the subject is not in the center of the frame. Select this button and then place the center where desired.

White Neutralizer

Complete Edition | Select Edition | Traditional

Removes color casts from light objects, such as white walls and brides' dresses, in a subtle manner. Use this filter to clean up images and create bright, crisp whites, without affecting other colors in the image.

Color Cast – Specifies the color cast to remove from the image. To select a color for this control you may either use the eyedropper within the active image or click on the color patch using the color picker in your image editing application.

Adjust Whole Image – Removes the color selected in the Color Cast control from the entire image.

Neutralize Whites – Removes the color selected in the Color Cast control from only the bright objects in the image.

Chapter 9

Contact and Support

Getting Additional Support

United States

Contact Nik Software, Inc. by phone at **(619) 725-3150**

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